REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-7 and 13-14 and 16-20 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing Amendment, claims 6 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form and all of the dependent claims made to depend therefrom. Claims 1, 8-12 and 15 have been canceled. Thus, claims 6 and 16 remain the sole independent claims pending in the application. Because claims 6 and 16 were presented prior to the Final Office Action, entry of the foregoing amendment is requested and allowance of the application is solicited.

In numbered paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,999,622 (Yasukawa.)

In numbered paragraph 13 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 6-7 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasukawa in view of EP document 0 614 308A1 (Melnychuck.)

These rejections are respectfully traversed, because the Yasukawa document, considered alone or in combination with the Melnychuck document, fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention as presently set forth in independent claims 6 and 16.

Applicants' specification describes methods and apparatus for partially encrypting an information file, such as a data file of text and/or image information, for secure delivery of content. Exemplary embodiments are directed to the secure delivery of an information file which has been split into at least two separate files. Use limitations are added to the file to prevent it from being used more than an

authorized number of times as described, for example, with respect to step 220 in Figure 2. Such a feature reflects an ability to securely transmit content which can only be used by recipients in a manner prescribed by the use limitations.

In Figure 3, an exemplary information file such as the image file, 300 is divided into a first file 310 and a second file 320. The second file 320 is encrypted using a desired encryption system. The first file and the encrypted second file can be transmitted to a secure device 360 via a communication path 330, such as the Internet. The secure device 360 can decrypt the second file and combine it with the first file to reconstruct a usable version of the original file 300 as a reconstructed image file 340.

In dividing the information file, enough content of the original file is extracted to render the first file inadequate to sufficiently reconstruct the original information file using only the first file. Figure 4 shows an exemplary method for dividing an image via a user selected pattern. In Figure 4, a user selected pattern 430 is applied to an image file 410, for example as an overlay, to extract content used to form the second file 420.

According to exemplary embodiments, only a fraction of an information file is encrypted to secure the content of the entire information file. Both the first and second files are transmitted to reconstruct the original file and neither of the first and second files are used independently. Use limitations are included in the information file to ensure that the second file is used to reconstruct the information file in a prescribed manner. Dividing of the information file comprises selecting parts from the information file via a user selected pattern. These features are encompassed by

independent claims 6 and 16, and are neither taught nor suggested by the documents relied upon by the Examiner.

The Yasukawa patent is directed to protecting widely distributed digital information by segmenting each file, each segment (e.g., disk sector) being encrypted separately. As described in the Abstract, some segments can be left unencrypted, and different segments can use different encryption techniques.

The Melnychuck document was cited by the Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action with respect to claims 6-7 and 16-17. In this portion of the Office Action, the Examiner states:

> within the same field of endeavor Melnychuck teaches a partial encryption method including, user selecting parts section of the file [column 1, lines 40-57]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a user selection method for selecting parts from the information file as taught by Melnychuck into the system of Yasukawa, because the modification further allows selection of a file segment based on a user's interest.

These assertions are respectfully traversed. The Melnychuck document is directed to image processing using a method which allows for restriction of access to selected high resolution image components in a hierarchical storage and retrieval system. As described in the Abstract, the disclosed technique employs a key encryption of selected image components during storage, and decryption with a special key, or password during authorized retrieval.

As described at column 1, lines 40-57, an image of compromised (i.e., lesser) image quality can be delivered for purposes of browsing or proofing. For example, when a user selects an image from a catalog of images depicting a particular object, the user can browse the relatively low resolution images. As described earlier in column 1 (e.g., column 1, lines 21 et seq.), an original image is decomposed to

provide image versions of various resolutions, thereby providing an image hierarchy. Thus, an entire image can be reconstructed at a lower resolution using the system of Melnychuck. However, use of a selected high resolution component for purposes of producing a full image quality can be restricted, as described, for example, at column 2, lines 35-54.

There would have been no motivation or suggestion to have combined features from the Yasukawa and Melnychuck documents in the manner suggested by the Examiner to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Moreover, even if features of these two documents could have been combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the presently claimed invention would not have resulted. For example, neither of the documents relied upon by the Examiner teach or suggest providing a user selected pattern for selecting parts from an information file to be encrypted.

The Yasukawa patent, as recognized by the Examiner, does not teach or suggest such a feature. The Melnychuck patent is merely directed to providing an image at different resolutions, and for encrypting high resolution components without discussion of a user selected pattern, such as that illustrated in Applicants' Figure 4. As such, claim 6 is allowable. Claim 16 recites similar features, and is also allowable.

All of the remaining claims depend from the aforementioned independent claims and are similarly allowable.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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